including Pratapgarh and Allahabad have been received;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) and (b). The State Wildlife Authorities of Uttar Pradesh have informed that a pack of wolves was responsible for the killing of 21 children in the Pratapgarh, Jaunpur and Sultanpur Districts between March 17 and July 6, 1996.

(c) The State Wildlife Authorities launched an intensive operation in the affected areas together with the officials of the police department and district administration and succeeded in eliminating the pack of 4 wolves which suspected to have been causing the depredations.

[English]

Construction of Fly Overbridges

583. SHRI D. VENUGOPAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in Tamil Nadu in Pachaikupam and Vaniyambadi near Ambur town, there are level crossings;

(b) if so, the time by which these level crossings are likely to be converted into the bridges; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c). The system of replacing busy level crossings by road over/under bridges is that the State Governments propose the works giving priorities. The Railways then examine the cases and include such of them in the Works Programme for which various pre-requisite formalities have been completed by the State Governments. The Railways while including the works in the Works Programme, also take into account the quantum of existing sanctioned works for that particular State and the pace at which these works are being executed by the State Govt.

[Translation]

Introduction of Train Service

584. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce train service between Muradabad, Gajraula and Sambhal;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted in this regard, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). There is no such proposal at present.

(c) Operational exigencies and resource constraints.

[English]

Trains in North Bengal

585. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the number of trains running in the North-Bengal region is too meagre to meet the demand of the people;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to increase the number of trains from North Bengal to different directions, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) and (b). The train services in North Bengal region are by and large adequate to meet the passenger traffic demands. However there have been some demands to increase the train services from this area.

(b) There is no such proposal at present

(c) Does not arise.

Irrigation Projects of Maharashtra

587. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that as a result of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the number of irrigation projects especially from Konkan and Vidarbha regions in Maharashtra have been delayed,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether in view of the prolonged delays the Government propose to keep the irrigation projects out of the purview of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) As on 30th June, 1996, 8 irrigation projects from Maharashtra are pending with the Ministry under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Out of 8 irrication projects, 4 projects are pending from Vidarbha region of Maharashtra and none from Konkan

(b) The statement showing the details of the projects is enclosed

(c) On receipt of complete details, proposals are processed expeditiously for decision under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. However, there is no such proposal to keep the irrigation projects out of the purview of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.